

ASTRONOMY SECTION ESTABLISHED

ON SEPTEMBER 11, the Council of the Academy voted to approve the establishment of an *Astronomy Section* within the Academy. Regular program meetings of this group will be held in the Hall of Science and will be open only to members of the Academy who are interested in Astronomy, and invited guests.

An organization meeting will be held on the evening of Wednesday, October 8, at 7:30 in the Lecture Room of the Student Section. (Enter by stairs to the basement at the left of the Morrison Planetarium entrance.)

Mr. George Bunton and Mr. Leon Salanave will be present at the first meeting to assist the organization.

NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of September 11, 1952:

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Daniel Bercovich
Mrs. John J. Essex
Mr. Gilbert R. Fravel

ANNUAL SPONSOR

Mr. S. D. Bechtel
Mrs. J. H. Hume
Mr. H. A. Magnuson

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Everett S. Layman

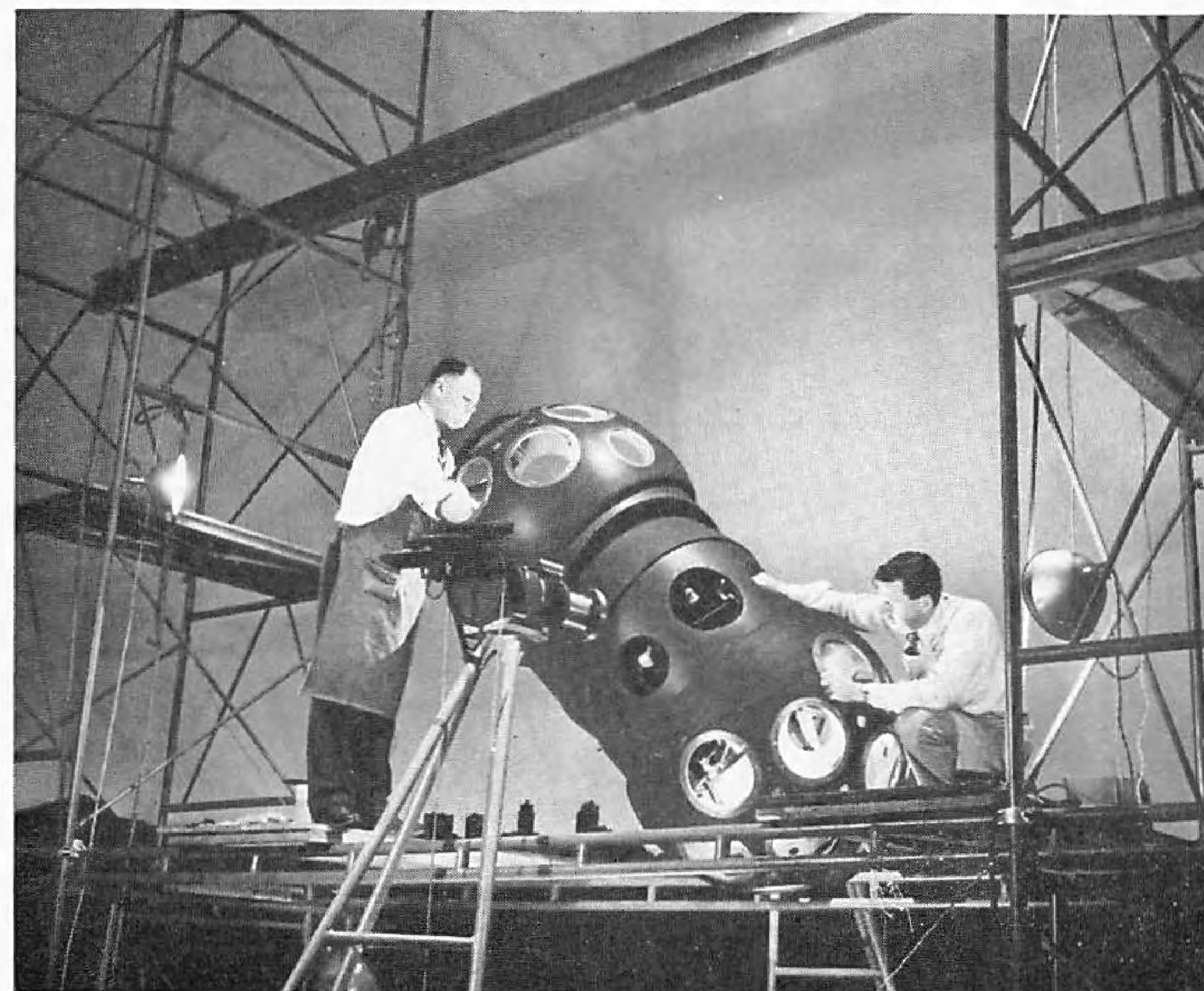
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Karen Engelhart
Harriet Hartman
Robert Moore
Marshall J. Reed
Linda Smith

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

NUMBER 154

OCTOBER, 1952



FIRST LIGHT

Star projector lights go into place as final stages of assembly are reached.
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Published Monthly by

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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October Announcement

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in Morrison Auditorium in the Academy's Hall of Science, Golden Gate Park, on Wednesday evening, October 1, 1952, at 8 o'clock.

Members will be given an opportunity to see the new planetarium projector now being installed in the planetarium chamber. An explanation of the vast amount of work that has gone into the building of the complex projector will be given by Academy staff members.

Briefly they will describe the steps which have placed some 25,000 mechanical parts in the projector. And, most of them had to be designed and machined in the Academy shop. The instrument contains 141 separate optical systems made up of 321 lenses, and threading through the projector and its control board are four miles of wire. It is as delicately balanced and precise in its movements as a fine watch, yet the instrument weighs more than 3,000 pounds.

Before the planetarium visit, Mr. Francis P. Farquhar, President of the Academy, and Dr. Miller will review the progress of the Academy during the last year.

Members will be advised of the planetarium opening date in the very near future.

NEW COLOR AT STEINHART AQUARIUM

GOLDEN TROUT, the official California State Fish, are on display in the Aquarium for the first time in a number of years. Seldom seen outside the High Sierra, where they make their home in streams at about 10,000 feet elevation, they are California's most brilliantly colored trout.

The trout were made available to the Academy by the California Department of Fish and Game in coöperation with Yosemite National Park.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

DR. ROBERT T. ORR, Curator of the Department of Birds and Mammals, reports that we have recently received a large shipment of bird and mammal study skins collected by Dr. J. Dan Webster of Hanover College, Indiana. Dr. Webster, who is a Research Associate in the Department of Birds and Mammals, has been collecting for us this summer in the states of Chiapas, Durango, and Zacatecas

in Mexico. The shipment contains a great many species new to the collections of the Academy.

Dr. Thorwald Kvam, a Norwegian Fullbright Fellowship student at the University of California Dental School who has worked in close coöperation with the Department of Birds and Mammals, has left to return to Norway after having spent the past year studying the teeth of various vertebrate animals, especially those of pallid bats. The Academy has supplied him with most of the material he has been using, and he is taking a great deal of this material back to Norway to complete his research studies.

COLLECTORS RETURN

THE SIX WEEKS collecting trip into the mountains of southern Arizona taken by Mr. H. B. Leech and Mr. John W. Green of our staff, resulted in quite a change of scenery in the Department of Entomology. In place of the nets, bottles, *et cetera*, which covered tables and floor before the expedition departed, there are now stacks of neatly marked boxes and carefully stored bottles of preserved material containing some 20,000 specimens for the Academy's insect collections. Among them, Mr. Leech states, are a number of rare species of water beetles some of which have never been recorded from that area, and Mr. Green reports that he doubtless obtained as many kinds of fireflies as have all previous collectors in Arizona. Collecting was done primarily in the mountains in Arizona, reaching up to 10,500 feet elevation in the Graham Mountains.

Troubles? For a trip of this kind where the collectors camped out the entire time, there were relatively few troubles, but there was one major problem at one place in the Baboquivari Mountains, how to get rid of some competitors who insisted on eating the insects attracted to the Coleman lanterns during night collecting. Immune to suggestion, either in the form of language, noises, or gentle pushing, these impostors quietly took position, adamant, at the most opportune time and place, and could be ousted only by bodily removal. Who are they? GIANT toads! Proof of their presence was recorded by camera, but information about their activities can be obtained only through discussion with the collectors.

STUDENT MEMBERS PREPARE NATURE TRAILS

IN CONNECTION with the summer nature study classes, members of the Student Section prepared two nature trails on the Ralston L. White Memorial Estate. One of these leads through a typical Redwood forest area, and the other through high chaparral territory. The interesting features along each trail have been marked, and explanatory guides were prepared in mimeographed form. As a culminating event, the students invited their families to enjoy the trails with them, and there were approximately seventy-five guests present for that occasion.

With the beginning of the school year, student activities have been resumed at the Academy under the leadership of Mr. Samuel M. Carpenter.